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TAGS: ELAB, MX

SUBJECT: LABOR CONFEDERATION HOLDS POLITICAL CONVENTION

1. SUMMARY: THE CTM HELD A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALL ITS MEMBERS WHO HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE: SENATORS, GOVERNORS, DEPUTIES AND LOCAL OFFICEHOLDERS. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO SEEK A STRENGTHENING OF BOTH THE IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE PRI AND THE ALLIANCE OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT. CTM'S FIDEL VELAZQUEZ HAS BEEN CALLING FOR A MODERNIZATION AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE PRI FOR OVER A YEAR. HE WANTS IT TO BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE, MORE IDEOLOGICAL AND MORE EFFECTIVE IN TERMS OF WORKERS' INTERESTS. THE OTHER TWO SECTORS OF THE PRI (CAMPESEINOS AND POPULAR) WILL HOLD SIMILAR CONVENTIONS IN THE NEXT MONTH IN ANTICIPATION OF THE PRI NATIONAL CONVENTION IN JUNE.  
 END SUMMARY.

2. THE CONFEDERATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS (CTM), MEXICO'S

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LARGEST LABOR ORGANIZATION, HELD A POLITICAL CONVENTION APRIL 12-13 ATTENDED BY ALL CTM OFFICIALS WHO HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE. THOSE ATTENDING INCLUDED A SUB-CABINET MEMBER, TWO GOVERNORS, ALL THE CTM SENATORS AND DEPUTIES, PLUS LOCAL MUNICIPAL AND STATE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE CTM BACKGROUNDS. SOME 1,200 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

*probably  
Blas  
Chumacero*

3. THE CONVENTION WAS CHAIRED BY CTM GENERAL SECRETARY FIDEL VELAZQUEZ AND CTM SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL ACTION, SEN. JOSE RAMIREZ GAMERO. THE MAIN THEME WAS THE DEMOCRATIZATION, RESTRUCTURING AND MODERNIZATION OF PRI. ALL THOSE ATTENDING HAD BEEN ELECTED TO OFFICE ON THE PRI TICKET.

4. RAMIREZ READ THE BASIC DOCUMENT OF THE CONVENTION, CALLED "DOCUMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL ORIENTATION". IT CALLED FOR THE "STRENGTHENING OF THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN WORKERS AND THE STATE, WITH MUTUAL RESPECT AND EACH TREATING THE OTHER AS AN AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT ENTITY". IT ALSO CALLED FOR PRI SELF-CRITICISM AGAINST EACH ACTION TAKEN WHICH IS AGAINST THE BASIC PARTY PROGRAMS AND PRINCIPLES. IT DEMANDED BETTER CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE STATE AND A SYSTEM OF EVALUATION BY THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE ELECTED AS PUBLIC SERVANTS AND THEIR PROGRAMS. IT SAID THAT ELECTORAL BATTLES WERE A MEANS AND NOT AN END; ELECTIONS WON ARE AN INSTRUMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL ADVANCE, IT SAID.

*is corruption*

5. THE POSITION PAPER ADDED THAT REFORM AND RENOVATION OF THE PARTY IS NOT DUE TO THE OPPOSITION'S ELECTORAL VICTORIES NOR TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. IT SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO A PUBLISHING OF NEW PAPERS, BUT SHOULD BE SOMETHING WE AGREE UPON AND AGREE TO CARRY OUT. THE PRI, BECAUSE OF ITS BASIC REVOLUTIONARY CHARACTER, THE DOCUMENT SAID, MUST ARTICULATE AND SUPPORT THE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE. IT MUST BE A PERMANENT INTERLOCUTOR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT. CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE MUST BE STRENGTHENED SO THAT ALL PLANNING BY THE GOVERNMENT

*in a way he's  
higher*

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*it's rumors from*

*other sources that suggest PRI is  
trying to become more active on a  
day by day / year by year basis*

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IS DEMOCRATIC AND PARTICIPATORY.

6. IN HIS SPEECH, CTM LEADER FIDEL VELAZQUEZ STATED THAT "ORGANIZED LABOR HAS A LIFE-OR-DEATH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IDEALS OF THE REVOLUTION AND CONSIDERS THEM THE SOLE MEANS OF CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY SOUGHT, A SOCIETY THAT IS FREE FROM TRADITIONAL EXPLOITATIONS. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A CHANGE OF ELECTORAL POLICIES, THE SELECTION OF DEDICATED, SINCERE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE POSITIONS--CANDIDATES WHO WILL NOT ONLY UPHOLD PARTY GUIDELINES BUT WILL BE AWARE AT ALL TIMES THAT THEY ARE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE".

7. LABOR LEADERS, FIDEL VELAZQUEZ IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR REFORMS IN THE PRI FOR OVER A YEAR. VELAZQUEZ HAS SAID THAT PRI MUST BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO ITS CONSTITUENTS AND MORE SELECTIVE IN ITS CHOICE OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE. HE WANTS TO STREAMLINE THE PARTY STRUCTURE TO MAKE IT MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF LEGAL OPPOSITION PARTIES. THE CAMPESENO SECTOR AND THE POPULAR SECTOR OF PRI WILL HAVE SIMILAR CONVENTIONS BY MID-MAY IN PREPARATION FOR THE PARTY'S NATIONAL MEETING IN JUNE.

(DRAFTED BY IRWIN RUBENSTEIN) BUSBY

END OF MESSAGE

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